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EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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JOHN STEPHENS'S PERICARDIUM.

Now I am going to tell you just what

my husband said to me this morning,

Doctor, word for word, and the invalid,

Mrs. Stephens, lay back on the sofa pil-

low, the very picture of misery. The

family physician, who was called on an

average to the Stephens mansion three

hundred and sixty times a year, drew a

chair close to the couch, and waited

quietly for his patient to open her book

of complaints.

Last night, you see, Doctor, I had an

ill turn, and he wanted to come for you;

but when I got so he dared to leave me,

he concluded then we'd better let you

sleep.

Much obliged to him, said the Doctor

—sarcastic emphasis on the personal pro-

nouncement. Last night was the first un-

dered night's rest I have enjoyed for a

week.

Mrs. Stephens continued:

This spell is the same as I find the last

time you were sent for Doctor—

A slight nervous attack, broke in the

physician, nothing more.

Well, it don't make any difference

what you call it, it is mighty hard to

bear; but let me tell you what my hus-

band said first, Doctor, before we go into

symptoms. When he was going down

to breakfast, he says to me, Kate, what

shall I send you up?

Says I, I don't want anything in the

world but a good strong cup of tea. Tell

Bridget to send it up in the little tea pot.

I saw, Doctor, that he didn't move after

I said this, so I turned and looked up at

him, and such a picture of rage and dis-

gust I never saw in my life. Finally,

says he, Tea! tea! tea! it's nothing but

tea from morning till night, Kate, says

he, you are the color of a Chinaman now.

Why don't you order a good piece of

beef-steak, and a slice of brown bread,

and a cup of chocolate; that would be

a sensible breakfast!

But John, said I, you forget that I am

sick and have no appetite. I was all

ready to cry, but I was determined that

he shouldn't have the satisfaction of see-

ing the tears fall.

Forget says he; forget? I wish to

heaven I could forget! It's nothing but

grout and groan from one year's end to

the other. I have lost all patience with

you, says he. When we lived in a part

of a house, and you did your own house

work, you were as well and happy as

anybody, and no man ever had a pleasan-

ter little home than John Stephens';

but what have I now to love, or to come

back to? and this, Doctor, is what he

ended up with—

Kate, says he, you are nothing more

nor less than a drunkard, and in the

sight of God, more culpable than most of

the men who stagger through the streets;

because the majority of those poor devils

have some sort of an excuse for their

conduct, and you haven't the slightest—

You have a luxurious home, a husband

doing his level best to make you happy—

everything under the light of the sun to

please you, and yet you will persist in

swilling tea. Yes, Doctor, swilling was

the word he used—booh! booh! booh! Oh

dear me! to think I should ever have

lived to have heard such dreadful lan-

guage out of my husband's mouth; and

then he says—and making me as misera-

ble a wretch as walks the earth.

Pretty plain talk, interrupted the Doc-

tor, with a shrug of his broad shoulders.

Oh, yes, sobbed the victim, and so

awfully coarse and unkind. If I had had

had a spell, and died there before his

very face, I don't believe he would have

carried a snap of his finger. I tell you,

Doctor, going there is such a thing as a

man's getting hardened.

Evidently replied the physician, with a